

Newsletter



Member of the Federation of
British Historic Vehicle Clubs

Tuesday 17th June saw our
“Farewell to Bunny”
gathering at Winkworth Barn
A really good event with well
over 140 of Bunny’s friends
and 50 classic cars gathering
to give him a great send off

Au Revoir
To a very special friend



What’s Coming Up

Key:

- ⇒ Club event
- ◇ Club attendance as group at a motoring or other event
- Everything else of interest. These items are shown for information only.

IN THIS ISSUE

Future events
Reports

August

- ◇ 1-3 South Cerney Steam Extravaganza Ken Hinton 01285 712522
- ◇ 16-17 Fairford Steam Fair Malcolm Cutler 01285 712173

September

- ◇ 6 Oakridge Village Show Mike Scott 01285 760315
- ⇒ TBA Lunch Run Alan & Abby Lees-Smith 01666 510125

October

- ⇒ TBA Lunch Run Andrew Smith 01285 821301

For other events see events List already sent out



Memories of Bunny



Visit to Coombe Mill

We were invited to Coombe Mill, which is very close to **Blenheim Palace**. It has a river running through the grounds and this used to drive the water mill to power all the equipment.

We set off at 9.00 am as we had to be there before 10.00am. Feeling positive we had the roof down but half way along we had to stop and raise it again as it was F F F freezing. We arrived in good time and parked next to Alison and Stewart Coes Triumph TR3A which is a lovely car in excellent condition. Most of our cars were parked around the car park close to the mill, although Malcolm and Chris seemed to have prime position right next to the mill!

The weather gradually improved and turned out to be very warm and we sat around chatting after we had looked around all the machinery.

Rob



Sqdr. Ldr. Tony Picking

On page 3 I have printed an interview with Tony Picking, sadly no longer with us, who was a long time member of our club and who, with his wife Pam, in their MGB frequently attended our events.

I thought the interview printed in the **Aeroplane** magazine would be of interest especially to those of you who remember Tony.

Flying Visit

TONY PICKING

Tony Picking, former RAF pilot, CFS & ETPS graduate and former personal pilot to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, talks to **MELVYN HISCOCK** about his flying career



What is your very first aviation memory?

When my father took me to Croydon Airport sometime in the 1930s, I would have been about 4. I was on his shoulders and watched as one of the Hannibals took off. I wondered what that big thing on the tail was and my father told me they dropped it once they were in the air. Of course, that was the biplane tail!

When was your first flight?

That was from Kenley as an ATC cadet. We went up in a Dominie and some bright spark asked the pilot what a "falling leaf" was. He demonstrated this peculiar manoeuvre and I remember many of the cadets were sick.

What prompted you to learn to fly?

I don't know, I think it had something to do with the fact that the local newsagent, knowing of my interest in aeroplanes, used to deliver copies of *Aeroplane* and *Flight*, mostly at half price. After I left school I had an apprenticeship at BOAC Croydon, but at 18 I left having been pre-selected for RAF pilot training.

When was your first solo?

On October 9, 1950 in a Tiger Moth in Southern Rhodesia. I was at 4 Flying Training School Heany; we started out with 60 cadets and 38 qualified.

Who has been the biggest influence on your flying career?

In the early days it was a fellow ATC cadet, as we were both interested in model making and flying. He joined before I did and ended up on Spitfires in the Canal Zone. Sadly he was killed in a mid-air. Other influences came later, of course.

What do you see as your best achievement in aviation?

I retired from the RAF in 1971 having had some of the best jobs in the Service. I then spent a further 22 years in business aviation.

Do you have any unfulfilled aviation ambitions?

No, not really. I know some people think that it is important to get

100 types and I am close. I do enjoy flying.

Can you think of a time when you have been in the cockpit, looked out and thought "This is it, this IS aviation"?

Oh yes, at Oakington on my first solo in a Meteor. I pulled the stick back on take-off and raced up into cloud. I came out on top into a sunny blue sky and I remember looking at the two intake holes and thinking "Bloody Hell, these are keeping me going."

What has been your worst time in the cockpit?

That was in 1957 when we were tasked in the ground-attack role in Hunters. Ours did not have the strengthened wing points, so we got Hunters from other squadrons. During the flight I heard a loud bang, I remember recovering with my arms in front of my face and my hands on the ejector handle. Between my arms I could see the dials winding down and red lights coming on. Luckily a Naval pilot heard my mayday and came to look underneath. He told me there were several large holes in front of the rear fuselage joint, but not that many of the bolts there had sheared. I put down 10° of flap, then the system was in manual, and so I used both hands on the column, and I had no trim system. If I increased flap I was not sure I could hold it. I knew it was going to be a fast landing so I did a lot of S-turns on the way in to lose speed. That was the scariest.

What is your favourite aeroplane?

One that I did a lot of work on at Farnborough was the Scimitar. It was a bit agricultural but a delight to fly at medium and low altitude.

What is your least favourite aeroplane?

I don't know, everything I have flown has its plus points.

Hypothetically, if you could fly one aeroplane from history, what would it be?

A Spitfire. I missed out on that. I watched the Battle of Britain from my garden and later the "Doodlebugs". We had a narrow miss from one of those.

FCCC June Lunch Run

Jenny's Kitchen is becoming a regular destination these days both for coffee and light snacks. Apart from the good coffee, food and service, the pleasant garden is a nice place to sit and chat and in the case of the FCCC June run, shelter from the sun under their umbrellas.

We eventually pulled ourselves away from this idyllic setting and set out on the Cotswold tour planned out by Geoff and Mike Scott. Did I mention it was a hot day, well it was, so by the time we had manoeuvred around some the Cotswolds finest lanes (not to mention pot-holes!) we arrived at the Toby Carvery, nr Brockworth Glos, ready for a refreshing drink! I think it is the first time the club has used this venue for lunch but from the positive feedback, we will be back. The carvery was excellent with a choice of size of plates (OK, when we were younger we would probably have gone up twice!) and honest, tasty grub. However, on such a hot day we did feel a bit sorry for the chefs working in those temperatures.

Well done Mike and Geoff who had only a few days before escaped from a short stay in hospital

Malcolm



FCCC PICNIC

It is a few years since our last summer picnic held in the Hinton's paddock near Shilton, and since then members have regularly asked when we were arranging the next one. This coincided with discussions with Fredrik Folkestad about a possible visit to view his eclectic collection of classic vehicle in Poulton, where he also has a large paddock and he kindly agreed for us to hold our 2025 picnic there. We are usually lucky with the weather on our runs I.e. fair weather, but this time, following a scorching few days, we were hoping for lesser sun and temperatures and fortunately we chose a perfect summer's day I.e. not too hot and fresher.

I would challenge anyone to find such a varied collection of classics that club members brought along and which confirmed the original objective of the club as being one for multi makes and for everyone to have a good time. With cars including MG's, Alvis, Citroen, Bristol, Hotchkiss, BMW, Triumph - sorry for those I missed out, plus Fredrik's collection of Auto Unions, NSUs, Saabs etc not to mention a Porsche 930 and early 911, plus front wheel drive, diesel, Cadillac - you would need to go over to the USA to J Leno's collection to find a better mix!

You can see from Keith's photos on the FCCC website that everyone seemed to be having a good time, with great picnics, a little champagne quaffed (own up Andrew and Sarah) and a lot of chat. A big thank you to Fredrik - can we book in for next year please?

Malcolm

